

American History II

Grade 11

Snow Packet Days 6-10

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The First World War**Section 1****World War I Begins****Terms and Names**

nationalism A devotion to the interests and culture of one's nation

militarism Building up armed forces to prepare for war

Allies One side in World War I: Great Britain, France, and Russia, later joined by the U.S.

Central Powers One side in World War I: Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire

Archduke Franz Ferdinand Young heir whose assassination triggered the war

no man's land The space between armies fighting each other

trench warfare Fighting between fortified ditches

Lusitania British passenger ship attacked and sunk by Germans

Zimmermann note Message proposing an alliance between Germany and Mexico

Before You Read

In the last section, you learned how Presidents Roosevelt and Wilson used American power around the world. In this section, you will read how war broke out in Europe while the United States tried to remain neutral.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on the causes of World War I.

CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I

(Pages 372-374)

What conditions led to war?

Four main factors led to the outbreak of World War I in Europe. The first was **nationalism**—the belief that the interests of a single country were more important than cooperation among countries. This led to competition.

The second cause was imperialism. Countries tried to increase the power and influence around the world. This led to conflicts among them.

The third main cause was **militarism**. Militarism meant building up armies, navies, and other armed forces. It also

meant using them as a tool for negotiating with other countries.

The fourth cause was the alliance system. Some countries in Europe had made treaties promising to defend each other. These mutual-defense treaties placed European countries in two main groups. The **Allies** were made up of France, Great Britain, and Russia. The **Central Powers** were made up of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire.

1. Name two causes of World War I.

Section 1, *continued*

AN ASSASSINATION LEADS TO WAR (Page 374)

What sparked the war?

In 1914, **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** was assassinated. He had been the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. His killer was a Serb who wanted to unite all Serbs (including those in Austria-Hungary) under one government. This touched off an action to punish Serbia.

The alliance system pulled one nation after another into the conflict. If a nation had sworn to protect another, it had to declare war on that nation's enemies. Germany and Austria-Hungary were facing France, Great Britain, and Russia.

- Why did the assassination lead to fighting?

THE FIGHTING STARTS

(Pages 374–376)

Where did the fighting begin?

Germany began by invading Belgium. It planned to overrun France and then to attack Russia. The British and French could not save Belgium. They did, however, manage to stop Germany's advance.

By the spring of 1915, two lines of deep trenches had developed in France. Germans occupied one line. The Allies occupied the other line. Between the two lines lay "**no man's land.**" The soldiers would climb out of their trenches and try to overrun enemy lines. They did this while facing machine-gun fire and poison gas.

This bloody **trench warfare** continued for more than three years. Neither side gained territory, but more than one million soldiers died.

- Why did the fighting take place in France?

AMERICANS QUESTION

NEUTRALITY (Page 377)

How did Americans feel?

In the United States, public opinion about the war was strong but divided. Socialists saw the war as an imperialist struggle between German and English businessmen. Pacifists believed that all wars were bad. They urged the United States to set an example for peace. Many other Americans simply did not want to send their sons to war.

Many naturalized U.S. citizens still had ties to the countries they came from. Many immigrants from Germany, for example, sympathized with Germany.

Americans tended to sympathize with Great Britain and France. They shared a common language and heritage with Britain. They were horrified at Germany's brutal attack on Belgium. And they had strong economic ties with the Allies.

- What were three things that influenced Americans' feelings about the war?

THE WAR HITS HOME (Pages 378–379)

How did the war affect Americans?

The war affected American shipping. Great Britain set up a blockade along the German coast to keep goods from getting through. American ships would not challenge Britain's blockade. German U-boats attacked ships from all nations. A U-boat sank the British ship *Lusitania*,

Section 1, *continued*

killing more than a thousand people, including 128 Americans.

5. In what ways did the war affect American citizens?

THE UNITED STATES DECLARES WAR (Pages 379–380)

Why did the U.S. join the war?

Three incidents brought the United States into the war. First, in January 1917, Germany announced it would sink all ships in British waters on sight whether they were hostile or neutral. Second, British agents intercepted the

Zimmermann note, a telegram that proposed an alliance between Germany and Mexico against the United States. Third, the replacement of the Russian monarchy with a representative government allowed Americans to characterize the war as a struggle of democracies against brutal monarchies. On April 6, 1917, at President Wilson's request, Congress declared war on Germany.

6. What are the three incidents that led the United States to declare war?

Section 1, *continued*

As you read this section, take notes to answer questions about the international politics that led to war in Europe.

How did the following help to ignite the war in Europe?				
1. Nationalism	2. Imperialism	3. Militarism	4. Alliances	5. Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand

Why did the following groups of Americans tend to oppose U.S. participation in the war?			
6. Naturalized citizens	7. Socialists	8. Pacifists	9. Parents

What did the following nations do to encourage U.S. participation in the war?		
10. Britain	11. Germany	12. Russia

The First World War

Section 2

American Power Tips the Balance

Terms and Names

- Selective Service Act** Law requiring men to register for military service
- convoy system** Having merchant ships travel in groups protected by warships
- American Expeditionary Force** The name given to the American military force that fought in World War I
- General John J. Pershing** The commander of the American Expeditionary force
- Eddie Rickenbacker** Famous American fighter pilot
- Alvin York** American war hero
- conscientious objector** A person who believes fighting is wrong and therefore does not want to serve in the military
- armistice** Truce agreement

Before You Read

In the last section, you learned how the United States was drawn into the war. In this section, you will read how Americans prepared to fight and how they helped the Allies win.

As You Read

Use a web diagram to take notes on how Americans responded to the war.

AMERICA MOBILIZES

(Pages 381–383)

How did the U.S. prepare for war?

The United States first needed to build up its armed forces. When war was declared, only about 200,000 men were in service. To solve this problem, Congress passed the **Selective Service Act**. It required men to register with the government so that some of them could be selected for military service. This process—called the draft—put about 3 million men in uniform.

Many African Americans served in the military. They were placed in separate

units, but some blacks were trained as officers. Blacks were among the first to receive the French honor of the *Croix de Guerre*.

Women were not drafted. The army would not let them join. But the navy accepted women in noncombat positions. Women served as nurses, secretaries, and telephone operators.

The U.S. built ships to transport men and supplies to Europe. Shipyard workers were exempted from the draft and the importance of their work was publicized. Prefabrication techniques were used to speed the production of ships.

Section 2, *continued*

1. How did the United States build up its armed forces?

Eddie Rickenbacker was an American ace pilot. He fought in 34 air battles and shot down 26 enemy planes.

3. Name two new weapons used in the war.

AMERICA TURNS THE TIDE

(Page 383)

How did the United States help?

To reduce the loss of ships to German submarine attacks, the United States and Britain began to use the **convoy system**. In this system, merchant ships traveled in a large group guarded by naval vessels.

American soldiers helped turn the tide of battle in Europe. The Allies had absorbed many casualties and were running out of men. Thousands of fresh American soldiers were eager for battle.

2. How did the United States help the Allies?

THE WAR INTRODUCES NEW HAZARDS (Page 385)

What made World War I hard for soldiers?

New weapons and tactics made World War I very destructive. Soldiers faced miserable conditions, including filth, trench foot, trench mouth, "shell shock" from constant bombardment, vermin, poison gas, and disease.

4. What hardships did soldiers face in World War I?

FIGHTING "OVER THERE"

(Pages 384–385)

What new weapons were used?

The **American Expeditionary Force** was led by **General John J. Pershing**. American infantrymen were called doughboys because of the white belts they wore and cleaned with pipe clay, or "dough."

New weapons played a decisive role in the war. The two most innovative weapons were the tank and the airplane. Air warfare developed rapidly during the war. Pilots went from shooting at each other with pistols to using mounted machine guns.

AMERICAN TROOPS GO ON THE OFFENSIVE (Pages 386–387)

How did American troops help end the war?

American soldiers arrived in Europe just in time to stop a German advance on Paris. One soldier from Tennessee, **Alvin York**, became a war hero for his actions in battle. At the start, York had been a **conscientious objector** (a person who opposes war on moral grounds), but he then agreed to fight. For his actions in battle he was promoted to sergeant and became a celebrity when he returned to the U.S.

Section 2, *continued*

Germany, exhausted from the war, finally agreed to an **armistice** on November 11, 1918. The war took a bloody toll, killing more than 22 million and causing untold suffering.

5. How did American troops help end the war?

Section 2, continued

As you read this section, write notes to answer questions about the American experience in World War I.

1. How did the United States raise an army?	2. How did U.S. soldiers help win the war?
3. How did the United States build its naval force?	4. How did the U.S. Navy help win the war?
5. What new weapons of mechanized warfare threatened those in combat?	

6. What did the war cost in terms of the number of...				7. What were the estimated economic costs?
civilian deaths?	military deaths?	injuries?	refugees?	

The First World War**Section 3****The War at Home****Terms and Names**

War Industries Board Agency to improve efficiency in war-related industries

Bernard M. Baruch Leader of the War Industries Board

propaganda A kind of biased communication designed to influence people's thoughts and actions

George Creel Head of the Committee on Public Information (CPI), the government's propaganda agency

Espionage and Sedition Acts Laws that enacted harsh penalties against anyone opposing U.S. participation in World War I

Great Migration Movement of many African Americans to northern cities from the South in the early 1900s

Before You Read

In the last section, you learned how the United States fought in World War I. In this section, you will read about how the war changed American society at home.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on the changes the war brought about for African Americans, women, and immigrants.

CONGRESS GIVES POWER TO WILSON (Pages 388–390)**How did business and government work together?**

To fight the war, the United States needed the help of industry. The economy had to change from making consumer goods to making weapons and war supplies. Congress gave President Wilson direct control over much of the economy. He had the power to fix prices and to regulate war-related industries.

Wilson created the **War Industries Board (WIB)** and named **Bernard M. Baruch** to run it. This agency helped boost industrial production by 20 percent. Other federal agencies also regulated the economy for the war effort. The Railroad

Administration controlled the nation's railroads. The Fuel Administration watched over the use of coal, gasoline, and heating oil.

Wages in some industries went up. But workers in other jobs lost money because of inflation. As a result, many workers joined unions. Wilson established the National War Labor Board. This agency worked to settle disputes between management and labor. It also helped to improve working conditions.

Another new agency, the Food Administration, was established to help produce and conserve food supplies. It encouraged people to grow their own food. It taught them to eat differently.

Section 3, *continued*

Americans were able to send more food to the Allies.

1. How did Wilson control the economy?

SELLING THE WAR (Pages 390–391)
How did the government win over public opinion?

The government needed to raise money for the war. They did this by increasing several kinds of taxes and by selling war bonds. Thousands of volunteers sold the bonds. Famous people spoke at rallies to promote the sales. Newspapers and billboards carried advertisements free of charge.

To popularize the war, the government created the Committee on Public Information (CPI). It was the nation's first **propaganda** agency. The agency was headed by **George Creel**. He had been a muckraking journalist. He used artists and advertising people to create thousands of posters, paintings, and cartoons to promote the war. He distributed pamphlets in many languages.

2. How did the U.S. government pay for the war?

ATTACKS ON CIVIL LIBERTIES INCREASE (Pages 391–392)
How did the war affect civil liberties?

The war brought out anti-immigrant feelings. Immigrants from Germany were often targeted for attack. Americans with German-sounding names lost their jobs. Orchestras refused to play German music.

Some towns with German names changed them.

Congress passed the **Espionage and Sedition Acts** to punish people who did not support the war effort. People could not interfere with the draft or obstruct the sale of war bonds. They could not even speak against the war effort.

These laws violated the spirit of the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech. The law led to 6,000 arrests and 1,500 convictions for antiwar activities.

The chief targets of the Espionage and Sedition Acts were socialists and union leaders. Labor leader Eugene V. Debs was jailed for making a speech about the economic causes of the war. The Industrial Workers of the World urged workers to strike. This was considered an antiwar activity, and they received jail sentences.

3. How did the Espionage and Sedition Acts contradict the First Amendment?

THE WAR ENCOURAGES SOCIAL CHANGE (Pages 392–395)
How did the war affect women and African Americans?

The war brought many social changes for African Americans and women.

African-American leaders were divided over the war. W. E. B. Du Bois believed that helping the war effort would help the fight for equality. Others believed that blacks should not help a government that did not support equality for everyone.

The war sped up the **Great Migration**. This was the movement of thousands of African Americans from the South to cities of the North. They wanted to escape

Section 3, *continued*

racial discrimination. They also wanted to find jobs in Northern industries.

American women played new roles during the war. They did jobs that had previously been done only by men. They worked as truck drivers, cooks, dockworkers, and builders. Women volunteered in the Red Cross and sold war bonds.

Women's activities made them more visible. They were not paid the same as men. But, soon after the war, Congress finally passed an amendment giving them the right to vote.

Also during the war, a worldwide flu epidemic, probably spread by American soldiers, killed 500,000 Americans and caused disruptions in the American economy.

4. How did women's roles change during the war?

Section 3, *continued*

As you read this section, take notes to answer questions about how World War I changed American society.

What were some things accomplished by the following wartime agencies and laws?		
1. War Industries Board	2. Railroad Administration	3. Fuel Administration
4. National War Labor Board	5. Food Administration	6. Committee on Public Information
7. Espionage and Sedition Acts		

What changes did the war bring about for the following groups of Americans?		
8. Immigrants	9. African Americans	10. Women

The First World War**Section 4****Wilson Fights for Peace****Terms and Names**

Fourteen Points Wilson's plan for world peace following World War I

League of Nations An international peace-keeping organization proposed by Wilson and founded in 1920

Georges Clemenceau French premier

David Lloyd George British prime minister

Treaty of Versailles The 1919 treaty that ended World War I

reparations Payments made by defeated countries after a war

war-guilt clause Part of the Treaty of Versailles in which Germany took responsibility for the war

Henry Cabot Lodge Conservative senator who wanted to keep the United States out of the League of Nations

Before You Read

In the last section, you learned how the war in Europe changed life at home. In this section, you will read about the treaty that ended the war and Wilson's proposal for a League of Nations.

As You Read

Use a diagram to take notes on the provisions and weaknesses of the Treaty of Versailles and the opposition to it.

WILSON PRESENTS HIS PLAN

(Pages 398–399)

What were Wilson's peace plans?

President Wilson presented his plan for world peace to Congress in January 1918. The plan was called his **Fourteen Points**.

The first five points suggested ways that wars could be avoided. They stated that (1) countries should not make secret treaties with one another, (2) freedom of the seas should be maintained, (3) tariffs should be lowered to promote free trade, (4) countries should reduce their arms, and (5) the interests of the colonial people should be considered.

The next eight points suggested new national boundaries. Wilson believed in self-determination: different ethnic groups should be able to decide for themselves what nation they would belong to.

The fourteenth point called for a **League of Nations**. This international organization would address problems between countries before they led to war.

Wilson met with leaders of France and Great Britain, **George Clemenceau** and **David Lloyd George**, to discuss the terms of peace. These leaders had won the war, and they wanted to punish Germany. Wilson had to give up most of his

Section 4, *continued*

Fourteen Points. The one he insisted on was the League of Nations.

1. What did Wilson's first five points address?

DEBATING THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES (Pages 400–402)

What did the treaty say?

On June 28, 1919, the leaders of the Allies and the Central Powers met at the Palace of Versailles in France. They were to sign the **Treaty of Versailles**.

The treaty created new national boundaries by (1) establishing nine new nations, including Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia; (2) shifting the boundaries of other nations; and (3) carving out parts of the Ottoman Empire to create colonies in the Middle East for Great Britain and France.

The treaty took away Germany's army and navy. It forced Germany to pay **reparations**, or war damages, to the winners. In addition, the treaty contained a **war-guilt clause**. Germany had to admit that it was responsible for causing the war.

The Treaty of Versailles had three basic weaknesses. The first was its harsh treatment of Germany. Germany was humiliated. Germany was not the only country that had also been militaristic, yet Germany alone was punished. And, Germany would not be able to pay the huge reparations.

The second weakness was that the Soviet Union (formerly Russia) lost more territory than Germany did. Russia had been one of the Allies, and had suffered more casualties than any other country. The Soviet Union was determined to get its territories back.

The third weakness concerned colonies. The treaty did not recognize the claims of colonies for self-determination, in Southeast Asia, for instance.

Wilson brought the treaty back to the United States for approval. He found several groups opposed it. Some thought the treaty too harsh. Others thought it favored the imperialists. Some ethnic groups objected to the treaty because of the way it treated their homelands.

The main opposition to the treaty was over the League of Nations. The League was the only one of Wilson's Fourteen Points that was included in the treaty. Conservative senators, headed by **Henry Cabot Lodge**, opposed joining the League. They did not like the idea of working with other countries to take economic and military action against aggression. They wanted the treaty to include the constitutional right of Congress to declare war.

Wilson refused to compromise on the League. He would not accept amendments proposed by Republican leaders. As a result, the Senate failed to ratify the treaty. The United States never entered the League of Nations. It finally signed a separate treaty with Germany in 1921, when Wilson was no longer president.

2. Name the three weaknesses of the treaty.

THE LEGACY OF THE WAR

(Page 403)

What was the legacy of the war?

The end of the war made Americans yearn for what Warren G. Harding called "normalcy." But the war had transformed the United States and the world. World

Section 4, *continued*

War I had strengthened both U.S military power and the power of government. It accelerated change for African Americans and women. However, the propaganda campaign left a legacy of mistrust and fear.

In Europe, the war left a legacy of massive destruction, loss of life, political instability, and violence. Communists ruled in Russia and soon after the war fascist organizations seized power in Italy.

Americans hoped that the war had convinced the world to never fight again. But in Europe the war settled nothing. In

Germany, Adolf Hitler exploited Germans' discontent with the Treaty of Versailles and threatened to fight again. Hitler was true to his predictions; America did have to fight again years later in a second world war.

3. What were the long-term results of the war?

Section 4, *continued*

As you read about President Wilson's plan for world peace, make notes to answer questions related to the time line below

1918	Wilson delivers Fourteen Points speech to Congress.	→	What were Wilson's points? 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.-13. 14.
1919	Treaty of Versailles is signed.	→	15. What terms of the treaty specifically affected Germany? 16. What were the weaknesses of the treaty?
1920	Senate rejects Treaty of Versailles.	→	17. Why did Henry Cabot Lodge object to the treaty?
1921	Senate again rejects Treaty of Versailles.	→	18. How did Wilson help bring about the Senate's rejection of the treaty?
	U.S. signs separate treaty with Germany.	→	19. What circumstances at this time would eventually lead many Germans to support Adolf Hitler?